



The Essentials: An Introduction to Christian Doctrine
Class #6 – Salvation

I. The Need of Salvation

a. Let's look at the Need of Salvation

i. We will examine *three things* concerning our need of salvation:

b. 1st – “All Have Sinned”

i. **Romans 3:10-12** – “As it is written: *‘There is none righteous, no, not one; there is none who understands; There is none who seeks after God. They have all turned aside; They have together become unprofitable; There is none who does good, no, not one.’*”

ii. **Romans 3:23** – “*For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God*”

iii. **Romans 5:12** – “*Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned.*”

iv. What is Sin?

v. First, Sin is Lawlessness – “*Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness*” Cf. **1 John 3:4** (i.e. Breaking of God's Law)

vi. Second, Sin is Unrighteousness – “*All unrighteousness is sin...*” Cf. **1 John 5:17a** (i.e. not meeting God's standard)

vii. Third, Sin is the Failure to do Good – “*Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin.*” Cf. **James 4:17**

c. 2nd – “Sin Brings a Penalty”

i. First, Sin brings Bondage – “*Jesus answered them, ‘Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin.’*” Cf. **John 8:34**

ii. Second, Sin brings Separation – “*Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; Nor His ear heavy, that it cannot hear. But your iniquities have separated you from your God; and your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He will not hear.*” Cf. **Isaiah 59:1-2**

iii. Third, Sin brings Death – “*For the wages of sin is death...*” Cf. **Romans 6:23a**

iv. **Revelation 21:8** – “*But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.*”

d. 3rd – “Mankind cannot Save Themselves”

i. First, Our Righteousness is Unacceptable – “*But we are all like an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are like filthy rages; we all fade as a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.*” Cf. **Isaiah 64:6**

ii. Second, Our Works are Futile – “*Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we might be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law; for by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified.*” Cf. **Galatians 2:16**

iii. Third, Our Sins need Atonement – “*And according to the law almost all things are purified with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no remission.*” Cf. **Hebrews 9:22**

- iv. **Leviticus 17:11** – *“For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you upon the altar to make atonement for your souls; for it is the blood that makes atonement for the soul.”*

II. The Provision of Salvation

- a. Let’s look at the Provision of Salvation
 - i. We will examine *three things* concerning the provision of salvation:
- b. 1st – “God Provided a Savior – Himself – the Lord Jesus Christ”
 - i. **Matthew 1:21** – *“And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.”*
 - ii. **Acts 4:12** – *“Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”*
 - iii. **1 Timothy 1:15** – *“This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief.”*
 - iv. **1 John 4:14** – *“And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son as Savior of the world.”*
- c. 2nd – “The Savior must be received by Faith”
 - i. **Acts 10:38** – *“Therefore let it be know to you, brethren, that through this Man is preached to you the forgiveness of sins; and by Him everyone who believes is justified from all things from which you could not be justified by the law of Moses.”*
 - ii. **Acts 10:43** – *“To Him all the prophets witness that, through His name, whoever believes in Him will receive remission of sins.”*
 - iii. **Acts 16:31** – *“Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household.”*
 - iv. **Romans 10:9-10** – *“That if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation”*
 - v. What does it mean to place your faith and trust in the Lord Jesus? What is saving faith? What does it mean to believe and receive the Gospel?
 - vi. First, a Knowledge of Christ – a basic knowledge and understanding of the core truths fundamental to salvation (i.e. the Gospel, sin, grace, Christ etc.)
 - vii. Second, an Agreement with the Message of Christ – a conviction of the truthfulness of the Gospel and a wholehearted agreement with its message (i.e. I agree that I need a Savior and that Jesus Christ is that Savior)
 - viii. Third, a Trust in Christ – as a result of their knowledge of Christ (hearing the gospel) and their conviction that these things are true (agreeing with the gospel), the individual makes a willful decision to place their faith and trust in the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ (acceptance and obedience of the Gospel). This implies confession and repentance of sin.
 - ix. Faith that God exists is not saving faith – *“You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe – and tremble!”* Cf. **James 1:19** – Saving faith involves agreeing with, trusting in, and submitting unto the Lord Jesus Christ
 - x. Salvation is by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone (Ephesians 2:8-9) – administered by the Spirit of Christ
- d. 3rd – “The Recipients of the Savior receive eternal Salvation, however, the Rejecters of the Savior receive eternal Condemnation
 - i. **John 3:16, 18** – *“For God so loved the world that He gave His only Begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life...He who*

- believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.”*
- ii. **John 3:36** – *“He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.”*
 - iii. **2 Thessalonians 1:7-9** – *“And to give you who are troubled rest with us when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power.”*
 - iv. **Revelation 20:15** – *“And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.”*

III. The Stages of Salvation

- a. Let’s look at the Stages of Salvation
 - i. We will examine three things concerning the stages of salvation:
- b. 1st – “Justification: Salvation from the Penalty of Sin”
 - i. The first stage of salvation is called *“Justification”* and it involves salvation from the penalty of sin
 - ii. Justification carries the idea of being *“legally declared righteous in the sight of God and being acquitted of all sin”* (opposite of condemnation)
 - iii. Justification is a one-time, instantaneous act of God which takes place the moment an individual places their faith and trust in the Lord Jesus Christ
 - iv. The righteousness of Jesus Christ is legally imputed to the believing sinner, thus, the sinner is declared righteous in the sight of God and declared to be acquitted of all sin in advance of the final judgment
 - v. John Calvin – *“Man is not made righteous in justification, but is accepted as righteous, not on account of his own righteousness, but on account of the righteousness of Christ located outside of man”*(foreign righteousness)
 - vi. Positionally, in Christ, we have a righteous standing before God, we have been acquitted of all sin by God, and we are perfectly accepted by God
 - vii. Practically, we are not perfect, righteous, or sinless, and thus, we are at the same time sinner and righteous – *“Simul Justus et Pecator”*
- c. 2nd – “Sanctification: Salvation from the Power of Sin”
 - i. The second stage of salvation is called *“Sanctification”* and it involves salvation from the power of sin
 - ii. Unlike justification, sanctification is not the act of God declaring us righteous (positionally), but a continual process by which God is making us righteous (practically)
 - iii. Justification is the act by which God gets us out of sin (the book of Exodus) and sanctification is the process by which God gets sin out of us (the book of Leviticus)
 - iv. Sanctification is a continual, lifelong process in which we grow to be more and more like Jesus Christ by the grace of God and the work of the Spirit of God – *“The Holy Spirit is working in our lives”*
 - v. Justification, we are imputed the righteousness of Christ; Sanctification, we are conformed into the image of Christ
- d. 3rd – “Glorification: Salvation from the Presence of Sin”
 - i. The third stage of salvation is called *“Glorification”* and it involves salvation from the presence of sin

- ii. Unlike justification (Which saved us from the penalty of sin) and sanctification (which is saving us from the power of sin), glorification is the future act by which we will be saved from the very presence of sin
- iii. **1 John 3:2** – “*Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.*”
- iv. Our future is “so bright” in the Lord Jesus Christ – One day we will enter into glory, but until that day, we must continue to fight the good fight, run our race, and keep the faith (*Never give in, Never give up!*)
- v. The Lord Jesus never told us it would be easy, but He did tell us it would be all worth it in the end – “*Keep your eyes on the prize*”

IV. The Descriptions of Salvation

- a. Let’s look at the Descriptions of Salvation
 - i. The Bible uses many different terms when describing a believer’s salvation and everything involved with their salvation
 - ii. **A lot happened to you** when you placed your faith and trust in the Lord Jesus Christ as your personal Savior
 - iii. We will examine *eight terms* used in the Bible to describe a believer’s salvation:
- b. 1st – “Salvation”
 - i. The most common word used to describe a believer’s salvation is the term *salvation* or *being saved*
 - ii. The term salvation refers to delivering a person or group of people from great distress or great danger
 - iii. Deliverance from a “restricted condition” in which they are unable to help themselves
 - iv. The word can be used in the sense of a physical deliverance or a spiritual deliverance
 - v. When used in a spiritual sense, salvation refers to the process by which God, through the work of Christ, delivers, protects, and saves sinners from the penalty, power, and presence of sin – “***God saves us from Himself!***”
- c. 2nd – “Propitiation”
 - i. The word *propitiation* means the turning away of wrath by an offering – when used in relation to a believer’s salvation it means the satisfying and/or the turning away of God’s wrath by the atoning sacrifice of Christ
 - ii. Because God is holy, righteous, and just He cannot overlook sin, however, He must judge all sin and pour out His wrath upon all sin (God is hostile toward sin in a personal way)
 - iii. Yet, by the work of Christ on the Cross, God’s wrath, justice, and righteous demands were forever fully satisfied on behalf of sinners
 - iv. And now, through faith in Christ, sinners can be accepted by God (God is satisfied) and delivered from His righteous wrath (spared from the wrath to come)
 - v. **1 John 4:10** – “***In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.***” – Receive the Savior who through His death fully and forever satisfied the wrath of God”
- d. 3rd – “Justification”
 - i. Justification comes from the Greek word *dikaioo* which means to “justify” and “to pronounce, accept, and treat as just”
 - ii. Justification is the legal act of God by which He declares sinners (who are unrighteous in themselves) righteous because of their faith in Christ
 - iii. Through faith in Christ, and on the basis of His righteousness and sacrifice, sinners are legally declared righteous before God and acquitted of all sin

- iv. God pardons sinners, imputes to them the very righteousness of His Son, and accepts them as righteous through His Son (remember – justification does not make a sinner righteous, but declares a sinner to be righteous)
 - v. **Romans 5:1** – *“Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.”*
- e. 4th – “Forgiveness”
- i. Forgiveness describes the legal act by which God *removes the charges* (sins) that were held against a sinner because proper satisfaction and atonement for their sins has been made
 - ii. The book of Hebrews declares that God cannot forgive sin without atonement, *“without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness”* Cf. **Hebrews 9:22**
 - iii. Yet, through the shedding of Christ’s blood, forgiveness is available to all mankind, *“Therefore let it be known to you, brethren, that through this Man is preached to you the forgiveness of sins.”* Cf. **Acts 13:38**
 - iv. Through the blood of Christ, God not only forgives our sins, but He also forgets our sins, *“For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more.”* Cf. **Hebrews 8:12**
 - v. Forgiveness forever solves the problem of sin in the believers life – all sins (past, present, and future) have been erased, blotted out, and sent away by the precious blood of Jesus Christ
- f. 5th – “Redemption”
- i. The word *redemption* means liberation, or freedom, because of a payment made (i.e. to purchase with a price in the marketplace and release out of the marketplace)
 - ii. The word is used to describe a believer being purchased out of the slave market of sin and being set free from the bondage of sin
 - iii. The purchase price (ransom) for the believer’s freedom and release from the bondage of sin was the death of Jesus Christ (blood of Christ)
 - iv. Moreover, because the believer has been redeemed by Christ, they now belong to Christ (slave of Christ) – *“Knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver and gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.”* Cf. **1 Peter 1:18-19**
 - v. Therefore, redemption means believers found themselves slaves in the marketplace of sin, yet Christ came and purchased them with His precious blood and freed them from sin’s bondage, and they now belong to Him forever
- g. 6th – “Reconciliation”
- i. The word *reconciliation* comes from the Greek word *katallaso* which means to *“reconcile, to effect a change, or to bring together”*
 - ii. As it relates to salvation, the word is used to describe a sinner’s new position and relationship before God due to their faith in Christ
 - iii. All believers were at one time enemies of God and separated from God because of their sin – but through their faith in Christ – they have peace with God and they have been brought into a right relationship with God
 - iv. All mankind find themselves estranged from God in the first Adam, but in the second Adam, Jesus Christ, all can find themselves reconciled to God
 - v. The fellowship that was lost in the Garden of Eden by sin can be regained through the One who prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane, *“Father, not My will, but Yours, be done.”*

h. 7th – “Regeneration”

- i. The word regeneration refers to the giving of spiritual life, by God, to those who were “*dead in trespasses and sin*” (Ephesians 2:1) and who were “*made alive by God through faith in Jesus Christ*”
- ii. To regenerate means to “*give life*,” therefore, regeneration is the act whereby God gives spiritual life to the one who believes in Christ
- iii. Regeneration may be defined as the “*communication of divine life to the soul...the impartation of a new nature...or heart...and the production of a new creation*”
- iv. **Titus 3:5** – “*Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit*”
- v. God imparts spiritual life to spiritually dead sinners through the Holy Spirit due to their faith in Christ – as a result – those born again are given a new nature, a new life, and a new status before God (Sonship)

i. 8th – “Adoption”

- i. The word adoption means “*placing as a son*” – it carries the idea of a “*legal child*”
- ii. As it relates to salvation, the word refers to the act of God whereby He places a person as a son in His family due to their faith in Christ
- iii. The term really describes the new position believers have in Christ – including all rights and privileges involves with their new position
- iv. **Romans 8:15-17**, “*For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, ‘Abba, Father.’ The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs – heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.*”
- v. In Christ, we have been legally adopted into the family of God, we have become the children of God, and we may now address Almighty God as “*Abba, Father*”